

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SPC-01 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRC - STAN BROOKS:CM

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HUMMEL

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O 220214Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230478

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652

TAGS: OVIP, CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: VISIT TO PRC BY W.R. HEARST, JR.

REF: (A) PEKING 1347; (B) STATE 218529

1. AS AMBASSADOR BRUCE REPORTEDLY KNOWS FROM TALKING WITH THEM IN HONG KONG, W.R. HEARST, JR. AND ASSOCIATE JOSEPH KINSBURY-SMITH EXPECT TO MAKE FIVE-DAY VISIT TO PRC BEGINNING LATER THIS WEEK (NOVEMBER 23, ACCORDING TO LAST WORD WE HAVE). CHINESE ARE AWARE THAT HEARST HOPES TO MEET CHOU EN-LAI, "OTHER LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONS AND CULTURAL FIELDS" AND VISIT PEKING HISTORICAL SITES AND RURAL AREAS. VISAS TO BE ISSUED BY CTS HONG KONG.

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2. PART OF BACKGROUND TO THIS DEVELOPMENT IS THAT AFTER

RECEIPT OF REFTEL A, DEPT ASKED CHINESE (BROOKS PHONE CALL NOVEMBER 8 TO CHI CH'AO-CHU) TO CONSIDER ALLOWING A VISIT BY HEARST (ONLY) FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS BEGINNING NOV. 20. HSIEH CHI-MEI OF PRCLC (CHI BEING OUT OF TOWN INFORMED BROOKS NOV. 18 OF APPROVAL, SPECIFYING FLAT FIVE-DAY LIMIT ON VISIT TO BEGIN "ABOUT" NOV. 20. AT HSIEH'S REQUEST, HEARST'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CAME TO PRCLC MORNING OF NOVEMBER 19, FORMALLY SUBMITTED PASSPORT INFO, STATEMENT ON PURPOSE OF VISIT.

3. THOUGH PRCLC OFFICIALS HAVE SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT TO US, THEY--AND PEKING--PRESUMABLY ARE AWARE OF W.R. HEARST JR. BYLINED ARTICLE, PUBLISHED IN HEARST PAPERS NOV. 18, WHICH INCLUDES FOLLOWING:

4. "A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME THIS WEEK ON MY WAY TO PEKING. I WAS READY AND WILLING, EVEN EAGER TO VISIT THE ANCIENT CAPITAL FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT REPORT OF HENRY KISSINGER'S TALKS WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST LEADERS, BUT MY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA VISA WAS CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE."

"ALTHOUGH APPLIED FOR THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINESE LIAISON MISSION IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE VISA HAS FAILED TO MATERIALIZE."

"I COULD HAVE GONE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR HEARST NEWSPAPERS, BUT I THINK I DID RIGHT IN GIVING MY PLACE ON THE KISSINGER PLANE TO OUR CAPABLE YOUNG STATE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENT, JOHN WALLACH, WHO BY NOW IS PROBABLY BACK IN WASHINGTON."

"I AM INCLINED TO THINK THE KISSINGER CYCLONE LEFT THE CHINESE RED RULERS SO BREATHLESS THEY DID NOT WANT ANY AFTERMATH QUESTIONING BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. ROD BEATON, PRESIDENT OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, WHO IS VISITING CLIENTS AND UPI BUREAUS IN ASIA, HAD HIS ALREADY-GRANTED VISA CANCELED JUST THE OTHER DAY."

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5. AT END OF ARTICLE, HEARST ADDS: "TO GET BACK TO HONG KONG, DAVID BRUCE--A FRIEND OF 30 YEARS WHOSE LONG AND BRILLIANT CAREER HAS MADE HIM OUR ELDER DIPLOMATIC STATESMAN--PHONED ME FROM TOKYO WHERE HE ARRIVED WEDNESDAY WITH KISSINGER FOLLOWING THE PEKING TALKS. HE KINDLY OFFERED TO PROVIDE ME WITH BED AND BOARD IF I RETURN WITH HIM TO CHINA, BUT THE VISA APPEARS LIKELY TO DENY ME THAT PLEASURE.

HOWEVER, DAVID IS COMING TO THIS HOTEL OVER THE WEEKEND AND WE WILL BE HAVING SUNDAY DINNER TOGETHER--THEN, LORD WILLING, HOME IN TIME FOR A FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER.

6. ELSEWHERE IN THE ARTICLE, HEARST COMMENTS: QUOTE WE... SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THE TWO GREAT COMMUNIST POWERS ARE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR DISPUTE AND FEAR OF ONE ANOTHER. THAT SHOULD GIVE US LEVERAGE WITH BOTH OF THEM. SHOULD THEY EVER COME TO FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER IN A MAJOR CONFLICT, THAT WOULD BE ONE WAR THE UNITED STATES COULD STAY OUT OF--FOR A CHANGE--AND I THINK MOST AMERICANS FEEL THE SAME WAY. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE230478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAN BROOKS:CM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731118/aaaaamuo.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) PEKING 1347; (B) STATE 218529
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO PRC BY W.R. HEARST, JR.
TAGS: OVIP, CVIS, CH, (HEARST, W R)
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005